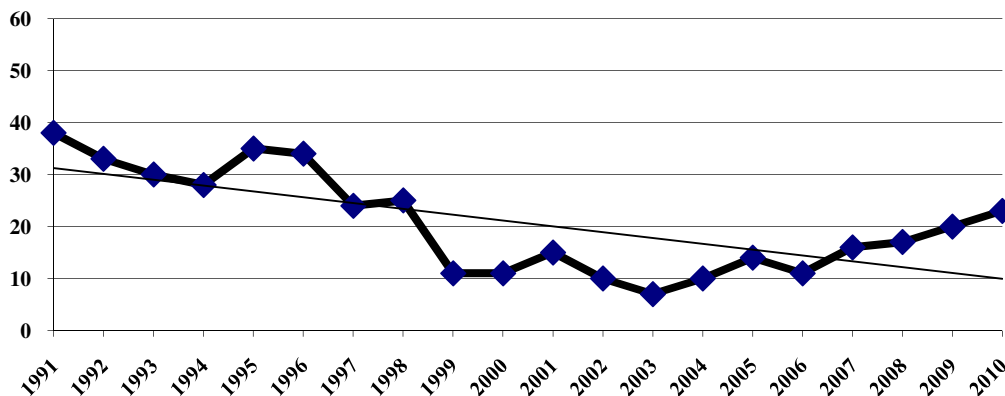


R A P E

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines rape as “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.”* Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, and assaults with the intent to commit rape, are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

* In addition, by definition, “sexual attacks on males are excluded from the rape category and must be classified as assaults or other sex offenses depending on the nature of the crime and the extent of injury.” However, in NIBRS, which Cambridge began using to submit crime data in 2007, “a sexual assault on a male by a female could be classified as a forcible rape, depending on the nature of the attack and the extent of the injury.”

Twenty Year Review: Rape in Cambridge, 1991-2010



20 reported in 2009 • 23 reported in 2010

The Cambridge Police Department’s Sexual Assault Unit reports that there were 23 rapes in 2010. All 23 of the rapes were categorized as completed sexual assaults. No attempted rapes were recorded. The

2010 total of 23 rapes is 35% above the five year weighted average for this crime. There were four stranger-to-stranger rapes registered in Cambridge in 2010. Three of these incidents were categorized as blitzes, two of which were home invasion scenarios. Three of the incidents were committed on the periphery of Central Square. A suspect was arrested on multiple charges for the home invasion sexual assault and stabbing on Pearl Street in August. The increases in reported rapes over the past three years can partly be attributed to a surge in domestic and acquaintance incidents where a minor was involved.

	Acquaintance	Contact	Blitz	Domestic	Total
Completed	9	1	5	8	23
Attempt	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	1	5	8	23

CATEGORIES OF RAPE

- **Acquaintance Rapes** are non-domestic rapes committed by someone who knows the victim. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances, including “date rapes.” Nine of the twenty-three incidents in 2010 were perpetrated by acquaintances.
- **Blitz Rapes** are rapes in which the suspect “comes out of nowhere.” Usually, the attacker is a stranger but this is not necessarily the case. Among all of the categorizations of rape, the blitz rape, or “street rape,” tends to invoke the most fear in the average citizen. There were five blitz rapes recorded in Cambridge in 2010. Despite the fact that in two of these crimes, the victim had a prior acquaintance with the perpetrator, the location and M.O. of the rapist led to the blitz classification.
- **Contact Rapes** are rapes in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain his/her confidence before assaulting him/her. Contact rapists typically pick up their victims in bars and lure them into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to

coerce the victim into a situation in which they can begin their assault. There was one incident in Cambridge in 2010 that fit into this category.

- **Domestic Rapes** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, or family members. Eight domestic rapes were reported in 2010. Family members committed all of these incidents.

2009* NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RAPE STATISTICS

The FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2009 reports that:

- In 2009, the number of forcible rapes nationwide was estimated at 88,097. By comparison, this estimated volume was 2.6% lower than the 2008 estimate and 6.6% lower than the 2005 number.
- Rapes by force comprised 93% of the reported rape offenses in 2009, and attempts accounted for 7% of reported rapes.
- The national rate of forcible rapes in 2009 was estimated at 56.6 per 100,000 female inhabitants.

With a population of approximately 102,866, Cambridge's rate (approx. 20 per 100,000 persons) falls far below that of cities of comparable size.

**Statistics for 2010 are not yet available.*

Please see the Protect Yourself section starting on page 136 for tips on how you can protect yourself against becoming a victim of rape, and how to handle the situation if you do find yourself in dangerous circumstances.